

Serial No. 09/813,718 - - - - 2

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 3 to read:

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B<sub>2</sub> -- The present invention further relates to variants of the hereinabove described polynucleotides which encode for fragments, analogs and derivatives of the polynucleotide having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9 or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of SEQ ID NO:9. The variant of the polynucleotide may be a naturally occurring allelic variant of the polynucleotide or a non-naturally occurring variant of the polynucleotide. Thus, the present invention includes polynucleotides encoding the same mature polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:910 or the same mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of SEQ ID NO:9 as well as variants of such polynucleotides which variants encode for ~~ana~~ fragment, derivative or analog of the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:9 or the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:9. Such nucleotide variants include deletion variants, substitution variants and addition or insertion variants. --

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 25 to read:

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B<sub>3</sub> -- The fragment, derivative or analog of the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:9 or the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:9 may be (i) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues are substituted with a conserved or non-conserved amino acid residue (preferably a conserved amino acid residue) and such substituted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code, or (ii) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues includes a substituent group, or (iii) one in which the mature polypeptide is fused with another compound, such as a compound to increase the half-life of the polypeptide (for example, polyethylene glycol), or (iv) one in which the additional amino acids are fused to the mature polypeptide, such as a leader or secretory sequence or a sequence which is employed for purification of the mature polypeptide or a proprotein sequence. Such fragments, derivatives and analogs are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein. --

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**In the claims:**

Cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 to read: